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The Highlander

Thursday January 30 2025 | Issue 674

INSIDE: THE MAN WHO'S TAUGHT MANY OF US TO DRIVE PAGE 13 FREE

Have an ice day

Jose Peixoto, riding in #101 A.J. Auto Collision speeds down the straightaway during the opening weekend of ice racing in Minden Jan. 25-26. The races resume Feb. 1-2. See more on page 15. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

New housing supports falling flat in County

By Mike Baker

Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter believes high construction costs and overprotection of tenants is why there's been so little uptake in adding secondary housing units to properties in Haliburton County over the past couple of years.

In May 2022, premier Doug Ford unveiled the *More Homes Built Faster Act* (Bill 23), legislation allowing more than one liveable space on properties serviced by municipal water and sewer.

Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, and Minden Hills went one step further, each making amendments to their zoning bylaws to allow accessory units, including tiny homes, on rural properties. There are some caveats, notably that applicants must prove they have the necessary septic capacity to accommodate additional residences.

The new rules do not apply to shoreline properties. While Highlands East didn't incorporate any new measures, junior planner Kim Roberts said things like basement apartments, granny suites and tiny homes have been allowed in certain areas since 2018, with nine applications between then and 2022.

Over the past two-and-a-half years, there have been 11 applications for additional dwelling units (ADU) in the County – three each in Algonquin Highlands, Dysart, and

Continued **'Homeowners'** on page 2

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Homeowners fearful of renting

Continued from page 1

Minden Hills, and two in Highlands East.

"Lots of people think the world is going to change as soon as new rules are brought in… but people are still apprehensive about renting out part of their home, because of issues they may have heard about and protections in the *Landlord and Tenants Act*," Carter said. "Taking on this kind of development is quite expensive, there can be insurance issues… it's a difficult thing to do."

Amanda Dougherty, Minden Hills planner, said additional units have been allowed within properties on municipal services since 2006. New regulations expanding those permissions to rural properties came into effect in February 2024.

The township's chief building official, Eric Guay, said one additional dwelling permit was issued in 2023 and two in 2024. "We haven't seen a surge of applications," Guay said.

Jeff Iles, director of planning in Dysart et al, expressed disappointment at the lack of uptake, with the township hoping new rules would create much-needed housing.

New regulations were finalized in Dysart in March 2024, allowing secondary units on most non-waterfront properties facing onto a publicly maintained road. Units can be constructed above a garage, as a basement apartment, or as a separate dwelling. The maximum floor area of the new unit can be 75 per cent of the main dwelling.

Iles said Dysart has also eliminated the minimum floor area requirement for new developments, paving the way for tiny homes on rural and rural-residential lots.

There was one tiny home and two ADU applications last year.

"A lot of effort has gone into the policy changes to building more housing, starting at the provincial level and trickling down to each local government. I think we all expected and hoped for more uptake," Iles said.

Mayor Murray Fearrey also blamed the high cost of construction materials. He said he'd heard horror stories from some homeowners, feeling the province needs to adapt the *Landlord and Tenants Act.*

"It's very hard to evict people if they decide they're not going to leave. They can stop paying rent and just be horrible tenants, but hide behind certain rules in the act. There's nothing the owners can do, other than try to take it to tribunal, which also costs money," Fearrey said. "Until we get some of that stuff fixed, I don't think this is going to take off the way it should."

In 2023, *The Highlander* spoke to Haliburton resident Ian Macnab, who received special permission to construct a secondary house on his Mountain Street property for his elderly mother-in-law. He said the option was very cost-effective, with the unit costing $130,000 and utilities around $200 per month.

"It would have cost us thousands of dollars each month to find somewhere else for her to live… I think this kind of arrangement is a great way for families to look after their seniors with a minimal ongoing cost burden," he said.

Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter. *File*.

Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen feels the townships need to do a better job of getting the word out.

"I don't know if there's anything we can really do to make it easier. People have a lot of options now," she said.

"I think we're still in the recovery phase [after the pandemic]. People are being careful with their money. Though, being able to put up a second unit on an existing property, rather than developing on a new one, makes adding housing more cost-effective than it used to be."

Carter said there's no way County townships can afford incentives to encourage more applications.

"We have no money locally to support this… the province famously downloads all sorts of things to us. I think this is something that, if the province wanted, they could come up with some funding programs. But again, there will still be some challenges around it beyond just money," Carter said.

Other avenues

Danielsen, deputy warden at the County level, said discussions are continuing at the upper-tier on communal servicing – potentially paving the way for clustered multi-unit tiny home developments.

Representatives from Frontenac County addressed County council last September, saying it hoped to bring 10 new subdivisions kitted with centralized water and sewer systems online in the Kingston-area by 2033. The subdivisions will create more than 200 units.

Frontenac's director of planning, Joe Gallivan, said at the time "if it fits well with us, I think it can fit well with you too."

Carter, who also sits on County council, said there are issues around cost and liability. To offset those, the County is investigating creating a municipal services corporation to handle things like billing and maintenance.

"We are working on setting something up. It's not going to happen overnight, but hopefully it will at least give us the administrative function so that if we do get a meaningful project come forward, we will be ready to go," Carter said.

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Scott says U.S. vote forced Ontario election

By Mike Baker

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott feels premier Doug Ford had no choice but to call a provincial election 15 months early, given U.S. president Donald Trump's repeated threats to implement tariffs on Canadian imports.

Seeking a seventh term in office, Scott said it's important Ontarians use their voice – and vote – to select who they want to lead the province through what she expects will be a tumultuous four years.

"The premier has been very strong in his fight to protect Ontario jobs. He's certainly seen as the guy that will fight to protect Ontario's economy, to engage with the president and his team," Scott said. "Trump's election really shifted everything. We're looking for the public to give us a strong mandate for four years, which hits the same timelines Trump will be in office for."

An election was legislated to take place by June 4, 2026. Ford officially declared on Jan. 29 that a new vote will take place Feb. 27.

Addressing media Jan. 24, the premier said due to instability in Ottawa following prime minister Justin Trudeau's resignation (he will remain in office until the Liberals select a new leader March 9) that it was more important than ever for an Ontario government to stand strong.

"You need a loud voice at the table," Ford said. "The choice that people are going to have for the next 30 days will affect every aspect of their lives, and the kids' lives, and their grandchildrens' lives for the next 20 to 30 years."

Thus far, the only other approved candidate in the HKLB riding is Tom Regina, who will stand for the Green Party.

HKLB Liberal Association president Judi Forbes, who ran in the 2022 election, said there was no candidate as of press time. She said the party has committed to reopening the Minden ER if elected and will focus on attracting and retaining family physicians in small communities.

Forbes said the Liberals also want to re-establish a carbon program that focuses on polluters and protect the Greenbelt. She condemned Ford for calling an early election – saying it will "unnecessarily" cost taxpayers millions of dollars.

"Doug Ford already has a majority government, that means he already has a mandate until the fall," Forbes said.

She also took Scott to task for her perceived absence during the closure of the Minden ER in 2023.

Scott reiterated her stance that the decision was made by the previous Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) leadership, not the province.

"It was not anything anyone wanted nor expected… I was just as frustrated that [HHHS] could have prepared and communicated things better and had a plan in place. It was a big blow," Scott said. "That hospital was the closest one to me, too. So, I completely understand and wholeheartedly sympathize with people."

Scott feels recent improvements to the Haliburton hospital – including a new CAT scan and a pending mammography unit, and soon-to-be installed ER x-ray, as well as the hiring of three new ER doctors and multiple nurses – shows the province is committed to improving health care in the County.

The equipment and their installation, which cost millions, were largely paid for via community donations, with the HHHS Foundation announcing late last year it had raised $6.225 million to cover the upgrades.

Regina, who scored 3,695 votes (7.55 per cent) in the 2022 election, refused to accept Trump's recent inauguration as reason enough to send Ontarians back to the polls early - saying that is more of a federal concern.

"The Ontario premier's support will be required, but the Americans will not consider him to be a spokesperson for Canada. Dealing with the U.S. is a federal government responsibility," Regina said.

He slammed Ford for "wasteful" initiatives, noting the decision to liberalize alcohol sales will set the province back approximately $1.4 billion by 2030, per a Financial Accountability Office report released Jan. 27. Speeding up the timeline added $612 million to the bottom line, the report states.

Regina also criticized the decision to provide $200 tax rebates to all Ontarians, for an expected bill of $3.2 billion. Ford said the money is to help offset the cost of the federal carbon tax and high interest rates.

The NDP party has yet to announce a candidate, with neither the provincial party or local association responding to questions by press time. Barbara Doyle stood in 2022, finishing second with 15 per cent of the vote. Lindsay-based Zack Tisdale will represent the Libertarian Party, while Gene Balfour, who stood for the Libertarians in the previous two provincial elections, will run as an independent.

MPP Laurie Scott will be seeking a seventh term in office when voters return to the polls Feb. 27. *File*.

Gun charges after arrest at Haliburton property

By Mike Baker

A Dysart et al man has been charged with several firearms-related offences following a police bust at a multi-unit property in Haliburton on Jan. 21.

Haliburton Highlands OPP, the OPP Tactics and Rescue Unit, and OPP Emergency Response Team executed a search warrant at a location on George Street last week. In a release to media, police say multiple firearms, ammunition, other weapons and suspected drugs were seized.

Forty-one-year-old Brian Reid of Dysart has been charged with: four counts of possession of firearm or ammunition contrary to a prohibition order; three counts of careless storage of a firearm; three counts of unauthorized possession of a firearm; three counts of knowledge of unauthorized possession of a firearm; six counts of failing to comply with a release order; and possession of a Schedule 1 substance.

The accused has been held for a bail hearing, taking place at the Ontario Court of Justice in Lindsay.

Fay Martin, vice president of Places for People (P4P), a County-based organization that provides affordable housing options to people in the community, confirmed the bust took place at one of their properties.

She said it seemed the accused had been living in an existing tenant's apartment.

She said the organization was aware of problematic, possibly illegal, activity at the site and notified police. Martin said at least one good Samaritan was involved, working with officers.

"We thank the citizen(s) who made it possible for the OPP to intervene in a definitive manner," Martin said.

Police are actively investigating – anyone with information is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122, or by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. Information can also be submitted online at khcrimestoppers.com. Information can be submitted anonymously and there's no requirement to testify in court. New leads may be eligible for a cash reward up to $2,000.

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County politicians reflect on ROMA discussions

By Mike Baker

Eighteen months on from the launch of Haliburton County's community mobile outreach (CMO) program and coun. Jennifer Dailloux feels the initiative is making a huge difference in the lives of some of the area's most vulnerable people.

Launched in June 2023, the program is designed to connect people with a wide range of issues with services and supports both within the County and beyond. Led by staffer Sue Tiffin, the County's community safety and well-being plan coordinator, it has assisted approximately 300 people to date.

Dailloux discussed the program's merits at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference in Toronto Jan. 19. She was part of a four-person panel looking at ways small communities can tackle issues surrounding mental health episodes and addictions.

"We were invited to speak because Haliburton County is one of the only regions with a dedicated person working on community safety and wellbeing," Dailloux said. "The work goes much further than just addictions and mental health – Sue has created a network of people and organizations to assist those who are struggling with many aspects of their life."

There are 12 services regularly partnering on the initiative, Tiffin said. Some of the first were places like Point in Time, Haliburton Highlands Health Services, Haliburton County EMS, Meals on Wheels, and area food banks.

Over time, as word spread, more have come on board – the Canadian Mental Health Association, Alzheimer's Society of Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland and Haliburton, City of Kawartha Lakes Housing and Homelessness services, and Community Legal Clinic of Simcoe, Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes.

Once a week, or more, CMO members meet in various locations throughout the County to provide easily accessible, low-barrier supports. Issues range from housing, mental health, addiction and harm reduction, food supports, education and employment, and community paramedicine.

"Crucially, this method increases the chances of successful cross-referrals. All service providers know each other. Instead of having to fill out a form and telling a vulnerable person they'll have to wait weeks for a response, they're introducing them directly, leading to much faster solutions and supports," Dailloux said.

To reach more people, CMO members attend the Minden courthouse the one day a month it's in session, offering help to anyone that asks.

"Sometimes it's not enough to simply start a service or program. Sometimes you have to literally bring it to people, so it's in their face," Dailloux said. "We still haven't reached everyone, and we haven't provided all the services we want to provide, but the ability to network amongst ourselves, evolve, and be agile as a group is something really unique.

"We've learned being flexible is good. Taking the risk to try and develop a model that really responds to our local situation is proving to be a successful way forward for us," Dailloux added. "It's almost like going back to how society used to be, where it's all person-to-person, really supporting people."

Tiffin said the response, thus far, has been positive.

"People who regularly access community outreach services appreciate the team being there, and tell us they look forward to it," she said.

Now that the ball is rolling, Dailloux said the momentum is building. More organizations are reaching out and wanting to jump on board.

"Places are starting to think it's a good idea to send a field officer 150 kilometres north for the day to make important connections. This initiative just keeps going from strength to strength," Dailloux said.

To learn more, contact Tiffin at stiffin@haliburtoncounty.ca.

Algonquin Highlands deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux presented on the County's new community mobile outreach program at the ROMA conference in Toronto Jan. 19-21. *Submitted.*

ROMA rundown

Algonquin Highlands mayor and County deputy warden Liz Danielsen said she enjoyed speaking to representatives from Renfrew County about the unique way its EMS department operates.

"They work directly with their hospital, they've got mental health programs they work with – it's so far and above what a typical EMS operation is," Danielsen said. "I'm excited about the fact we're going to have a new EMS chief and hopefully we can look to see if there's improvements we can make."

It was announced earlier this month that Michael Slatter is replacing Tim Waite as head of the department.

Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter said he discussed housing and health care with several provincial ministers, while continuing to advocate for public transportation. He said other municipalities with active programs were struggling to fund buses once provincial grants dried up.

He said there's been no advancement on efforts to establish a bus service between Haliburton and Minden due to higher-than-expected costs.

Dysart deputy mayor Walt McKechnie said he attended seminars focused on housing. He came away believing governments of all levels have to do more to encourage development.

"We need to lighten up our legislation and get the ball moving, get shovels in the ground as quickly as possible," McKechnie said. "There's no reason projects should be tied up for years just to get approval."

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. Meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- January 30 – Regular Council Meeting
- February 4 - Special Meeting 2025 Budget
- February 13 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal.

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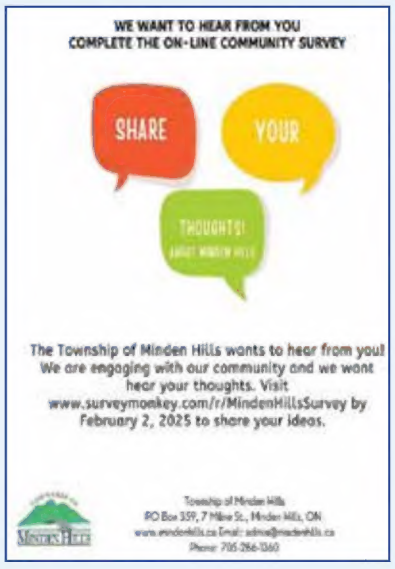
NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING - PROPOSED CHANGES TO FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, January 30, 2025 during its Regular Council Meeting regarding Proposed changes to the Township's Fees and Charges By-law.

Proposed changes are included in the following Schedules and are also available on our website:

- Schedule A Building – simplified wording for building permit minimum fee
- Schedule B Administration
- Schedule C Fire
- Schedule D Cultural Centre Programs and Facilities
- Schedule F Planning Department Fees
- Schedule H Community Services Programs & Facilities
- Schedule I Water, Sewer, and Landfill

Members of the public wishing to **participate may attend in-person or join electronically** and make comment/speak at the Public Meeting regarding proposed changes to the Fees and Charges By-law. Registration is required for electronic participants. Please email admin@mindenhills.ca.



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Police board there to ask OPP questions

By Lisa Gervais

A former police chief for South Simcoe is the new chair of the fledgling Haliburton County Police Detachment Board.

Andrew Fletcher was elected at the inaugural meeting in November.

A community representative, along with Andy Chvedukas, he joins provincial appointee Andrew Hodgson, Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen, Dysart et al deputy mayor Walt McKechnie, Highlands East mayor Dave Burton, and Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter on the board.

It was created as part of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, which came into effect April 1, 2024. The legislation has replaced the *Police Services Act*, to focus on addressing community safety; enhancing police oversight; modernizing policing, and establishing consistent mandated training requirements.

Fletcher said he started as a cadet in Halton Region and worked his way up to deputy chief during 31 years there. Looking for a top role, he joined South Simcoe for seven years before retiring two-and-a-half years ago.

The Bob Lake full-time resident saw an ad in the paper looking for board community representatives. His family has had a cottage on the lake for 15 years, coming weekends and summers. He got to know people in the community, and a handle on what was going on.

"I said I was going to be retired, was going to be quiet, and then a few people started calling me, saying, 'have you considered this? This is right up your alley. What do you think'?"

He elaborates that when he first called quits to his working life, the best advice he received was to not do anything for the first year.

"Don't commit… take your time. I did that. But I'm typically a person who likes to be busy and doing things. I started getting involved in the curling club and the food bank. When this came up, I debated; am I really a community representative? Do I know enough about the community? Have I been here long enough? I felt I had a pretty good grasp on some of the things going on, but I was really looking to bring that organizational experience."

Haliburton County Police Detachment Board chair Andrew Fletcher. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Fletcher was involved in subcommittees writing the new *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*. He said he cares deeply about crime prevention and the Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan.

"I am passionate about the fact that policing is more than just enforcement. I hate the words 'law enforcers' because our new generation of policing is about engaging with the community; looking at the well-being of the community; inspiring young people to get involved in policing; and giving youth guidance when they need that through youth diversion. It's not all about putting people in jail."

He brings valuable policing experience to the board.

"Not just as a chief of police but an understanding of CSWB, and what the role of the board is. For the last 17 years, I sat on the other side of the table (as chief and deputy chief) and listened to boards and how they engage with commanders and chiefs."

He added it is also about better connecting the OPP to the community via the board.

"People are already talking to me. They see me at the curling club and say, 'I see you're the board chair, what about this, and what about that'?"

As for his views on the board's role, Fletcher added, "we're the people to ask the questions. When we are engaging with the commander and he brings reports, for example, that theft of gas is up 100 per cent, we can say 'what about that? What are you doing about that?

"When we start seeing the mental health statistics, we can ask, 'what more can we be doing'? The commander, many times, has already thought about it, but it's about bringing whatever the priorities of the board are to their (OPP) attention."

He said OPP billing is always topical but the board can request a breakdown of costs. "Not to hold their (OPP) feet to the fire, but just that accountability piece and saying 'okay, let us ask those questions that the public might be asking'."

He noted the board does evaluate commanders. "It gives us a chance to say to him or her, 'this is what's important to us' - and many times we are aligned. They've already addressed it, but, if not… our job is to make sure there's a broad spectrum of strategies."

At the end of the day, he said he is just trying to make a difference.

"Let's make sure the community is getting the best bang for their buck, and if not, let's change that, introduce something different, or have a conversation to see if we can drive it in that direction."

Some notable police statistics for 2024 from last week's board meeting

- Distracted driving is significantly up. There were 13 incidents in 2024, compared to two in 2023 and two in 2022. That is a 550 per cent increase.
- Speeding is also up (1,030 offences in 2024), compared to 691 in 2023 and 727 in 2022. That is a 49.1 per cent increase.
- Violent crimes are trending down 21.2 per cent from 2023. Property crimes are also down 11.2 per cent.
- Drug charges are up significantly from last year, 17 versus five. But there were 16 in 2022. It equates to a 240 per cent year over year jump.
- Mental Health Act occurrences are on the rise, with 221 in 2024, compared to 177 in 2023 and 195 in 2022.
- There have been more referrals to victim services.

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Minden Hills seeks partners for Lochlin site

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills council, on Jan. 16, directed staff to put out an expression of interest for potential partners to help redevelop the Lochlin Community Centre site. They also committed $50,000 towards the project.

The future of the centre - which has been shuttered since COVID - was again up for debate as part of budget talks.

"In its mothballed state, the condition of the building has deteriorated and requires significant investment," chief building official, Eric Guay, said in a written report.

An advisory committee has been meeting to help determine next steps with three options: a new $900,000 plus tax hall; renovating the existing building, at an estimated cost of $585,000 plus taxes; or relocating the existing building for $1,050,000 to $1.15 million plus tax.

CAO Cynthia Fletcher said there is another option.

"Maybe there's an opportunity to seek a partner, or partners, to do something bigger on the site." She added, "my strong recommendation would be anything that we do has to include a community gathering space" since the centre had been a hub prior to the pandemic.

Coun. Pam Sayne agreed they need to keep the community centre component and was intrigued by potential partnerships. "What if we put a couple of housing units there?" she asked. "I like the idea of doing something more there."

Mayor Bob Carter suggested day care. "If there was some space… they could pay full market rent… I'm just using that as an example of a partnership. But it will take time."

Coun. Ivan Ingram asked about moving the old fire hall in downtown Minden to Lochlin.

Deputy mayor Lisa Schell said the Lochlin hall issue has been going on for years. "I think this council has to make a decision and make something happen one way or another."

Coun. Tammy McKelvey agreed, "it is time to make a decision, put some money in the budget for at least a commitment to do something. We have a building that is growing mould. The previous council talked about it. We've talked about it enough. Just put our money where our mouth is or say we're not going to do it. I love the partnership idea by the way."

Fletcher suggested putting out an expression of interest, including asking potential partners how quickly they could make something happen. Ingram suggested the $50,000 and council voted in favour.

In-house lawn care

Council also voted in favour of in-house lawn care at cemeteries, versus hiring a contractor.

Director of community services, Candace McGuigan, said it was possible with the hiring of two additional summer parks students. McGuigan pointed out they went outside the municipality due to staff shortages last year. Cemeteries are open May 1 to Nov. 30 with clean-up beginning in April.

McGuigan added they could also do Lutterworth yard, and the Minden water and wastewater treatment plants, rather than having OCWA do the plants. She said no additional equipment is required. The overall cost would be just over $27,000, compared to $56,000 for contracting out.

Council opted for in-house.

The Lochlin Community Centre has been closed since COVID. *File*.

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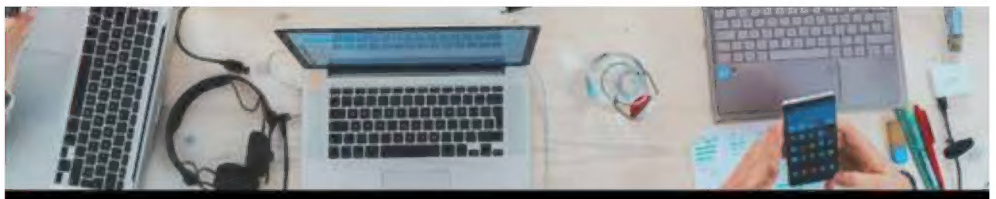

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Fire units pitch joint responses

By Mike Baker

The chiefs of the County's four fire departments are working on a proposal they hope to present to their respective councils this year advocating for improved collaboration between local stations.

Dan Chumbley, who heads up the Dysart department, told *The Highlander* he tries to assist on calls in Algonquin Highlands, Minden Hills, and Highlands East when needed, via a loose mutual aid agreement – but he feels there's an opportunity for more enhanced partnerships.

The proposal is for an immediate two-department response for certain calls, such as structure fires, wildland fires, and specialized rescues. He said the idea is the two closest units to an incident would respond. A six-month pilot was carried out last year.

"The intent is to get more firefighters for larger-scale incidents responding sooner, by drawing from a bigger pool," Chumbley said. "The increased number of call outs make it harder for the current firefighters to attend everything."

The Dysart station responded to 444 emergency calls in 2024, up around five per cent from 2023 and 15 per cent from 2022.

The department is staffed almost exclusively by volunteers, who often rush from their day jobs, or from home, to respond when calls come in. Chumbley said he has a full quota of 28 members, having added three last year to replace retirees. All volunteers are paid an hourly rate.

"Some can reorganize their workload and respond after a short delay, but it is still a delay," Chumbley said. "Call outs can happen at any time and for a large variety of reasons. We sometimes go days without hearing our pagers, and then we will have a short burst of activity all at once."

That was the case the weekend of Jan. 18 and 19, with Dysart firefighters logging over 130 hours responding to seven calls.

The situation is a little more desperate in Algonquin Highlands, according to its chief Mike French. Addressing council at a Jan. 16 meeting, he said the department was having issues responding effectively to calls through Station 80 in Stanhope due to a lack of volunteers.

Dysart fire chief Dan Chumbley believes a new two-department response to major fires could benefit County residents. *File*.

"We seem to have an open door going through – we lose one, we gain one. Every time we seem like we're making some progress, another person leaves," French said. "I don't know the reasoning behind it.

"Station 60 (Dorset) and Station 70 (Oxtongue Lake) get good responses to all calls. We are low for Station 80. We don't have the numbers we anticipate we should have."

French noted medical-related response times are good, with those requiring four-to-five volunteers. Fires are a different animal, though, usually requiring at least double that amount.

As such, any time a call comes through Station 80, French said Dorset-based volunteers will also respond. He noted there's also an agreement with Minden Hills for added assistance. French said that's reciprocated any time there's an emergency in Minden.

There was a 4.7 per cent increase in call volume in Algonquin Highlands in 2024, up to 334 from 316 the previous year. Of those, 45 were fire-related responses.

Minden, HE 'steady'

Don Kruger, chief of the Minden department, said it has been a steady couple of years – reporting the exact same number of callouts in 2023 and 2024, with 376 emergencies. He estimated about 50 per cent were medical.

There is one volunteer vacancy, with 24 of 25 roster spots filled. Being the closest department to the City of Kawartha Lakes, Kruger said he also has a mutual aid agreement there.

It's been a busy start to the new year – Kruger said over the past five years the department has averaged 16 calls in January. As of Jan. 20, they were already at 23.

In Highlands East, chief Chris Baughman said there are around 300 calls annually. He estimates 55 to 60 per cent are medical related.

His department has an active roster of 45 volunteers but can carry up to 50. "We are always interested in adding a befitting new candidate," Baughman said.

He believes there would be a benefit to instituting a permanent two-department response in the County.

"It'll be up to councils to decide," he said.

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Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Enough is enough

By Mike Baker

With provincial and federal elections on the horizon this year, naturally there's only one name on the lips of both seasoned and prospective politicians in Canada – U.S. president Donald Trump.

It's been a long-running joke, certainly for the 18 years I've lived in Canada, that people pay way more attention to the political scene south of the border than the one on their doorstep.

While I've never been able to fully comprehend it, recently I've started to understand why. The public has become so disconnected and disillusioned following years of political gaffes, mishandlings, and controversies – at all levels – that politics has become little more than a pantomime for most.

Thanks in large part to parts of the mainstream media, talk around the dinner table has shifted from how the latest policy, investment or budget cut will impact their lives, to whatever outfit the flavour-of-the-day politician wore that day.

You might think I'm being facetious there but bear with me.

When prime minister Justin Trudeau visited India in 2018, pretty much the only thing people picked up on was how ridiculous they thought he looked donning traditional Indian attire. *Macleans*, which promotes itself as "Canada's magazine" dedicated an entire story to the supposed debacle, while circling back to an array of outfits Trudeau had worn on other international and domestic endeavours, dubbing him 'The Mr. Dressup prime minister'.

Politics, it seems, is viewed more as entertainment these days than anything else. The problem is, with each passing election, more and more people are turning off the proverbial television.

Voter turnout has seen a steady decline for decades. The last time the country saw more than 70 per cent of people participate was 1992, when 71.8 per cent voted. Numbers have swayed from the low-to-high 60s ever since, with a record low of 58.8 per cent in 2008.

Things are even more concerning provincially – voter turnout hasn't exceeded 70 per cent since 1971. In the last seven votes stretching back to 1999, the average participation is 52.42 per cent – including an embarrassing 44 per cent last time out in 2022.

The Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock ridings are no exception. Federally, voter turnout has averaged 66.23 per cent through the past four elections – in line with the national average.

It's hard to determine an average for the past four provincial polls – turnout in 2022 was a record-low 48.14 per cent, down from 54.98 per cent in 2011. Averages weren't listed for 2014 and 2018, only totals – 52,839 people voted 11 years ago, and 57,143 four years later. Only 49,292 of a possible 101,416 voted in 2022.

I lay the blame directly at the feet of those running and elected to serve us.

In today's *Highlander*, we offered MPP Laurie Scott, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock Liberal Association president Judi Forbes, and local Green Party candidate Tom Regina an opportunity to share some thoughts ahead of the Feb. 27 provincial vote. They all largely spent their time talking about premier Doug Ford, with a sprinkling of Trump.

I gave them all the chance to discuss local issues and priorities. Forbes did later follow-up with some Liberal priorities. Scott touched on healthcare, continuing to blame Haliburton Highlands Health Services for the closure of the Minden ER, but no platforms were presented. No innovative ideas. Nothing to give people hope in, let's be honest, pretty desperate times.

There are really concerning issues all around us, things like homelessness, food insecurity, rampant drug use – which is sparking an increase in crime. The Haliburton Highlands OPP reported a 15.7 per cent increase to the number of Criminal Code and Provincial Statute charges laid locally last year.

Enough is enough. It's beyond time for real change in our political spectrum. And it must begin with the people wanting to represent us.

We, the public, play an important role too. Simply switching off is not the answer. We need to challenge those who do put their names forward to find solutions. Hold them accountable. Expect them to show up and be there when the proverbial poop hits the fan.

The malaise has to stop. Either that, or we're doomed to repeating the same cycles of mediocrity that have been allowed to fester for so long.

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Briggs finds community at Legion

By Susan Tromanhauser

In 1981, at the age of 20, Chris Briggs left Blackstock, Ontario, to move in with her aunt in Haliburton.

A waitress job at The Kosy Korner was all she needed to fit into her new community as the Kosy was the place to meet locals and learn what was happening in the village. Briggs laughs when she shares, "the men were worse than the women for gossip."

The Kosy could get hectic. "You never knew how many would rush in at lunch and if it rained, there would be a lot of people."

Working at the Kosy meant, "everyone who walked down the street" knew her. Briggs met lots of people in her off hours as well. She remembers seeing bands and partying at a bar on Hwy. 118. However, it was through her neighbour that she met her husband. He turned down her initial invitation to dinner but changed his mind and Briggs jokes her cooking must have been good because "forty years later, he is still here." Through her husband, Briggs was introduced to the Royal Canadian Legion.

Her first visit to the Legion in the 80s meant women were upstairs and men downstairs. Her father-in-law taught her how to play darts and she became pretty good at it, soon invited to play downstairs with the men. Briggs reports some of the men, "got bent out of shape" when she started beating them, but "they got used to it." Briggs is proud the Legion will soon host the 20th anniversary John Briggs' mixed dart tournament – men and woman together.

In 2014, her life was interrupted when she woke up to discover her eyeball protruding from its socket. Diagnosed as a brain tumour, Briggs was rushed to Kingston where in the middle of surgery, she suffered a brain aneurism.

Fortunately, she was in good hands and survived the ordeal and now lives a cancer-free life.

The only residual outcome of the tumour removal is finding it difficult to multi-task. At the time, Briggs was working housekeeping at the busy hospital emergency room so she moved to the more routine environment of long-term care. In 2020, with the arrival of COVID, Briggs felt it was time to retire and she increased her volunteer time at the Legion.

Over the years Briggs held many roles at the Legion, including first vice-president. She is pleased her children are also involved.

Her son started a youth dart league for ten to 18-year-olds. Briggs encourages anyone to try darts or pool as the Legion is open to the public Fridays 4:30-6:30 p.m. - and there is also the meat draw.

Chris Briggs. *Submitted.*

Briggs is modest when commended about her long-time involvement at the Legion, saying she likes to step up and help out when needed. She adds, "we wouldn't have what we have without the sacrifice" of veterans. What began as a place to play darts, Briggs has found community at the Legion, in her home of Haliburton.

Algonquin Highlands uses Paws at Killara Station. *freepik.com.*

Minden Hills to make decision on pound

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills council is expected to make a decision on whether or not to provide dog pound service to its residents at a Feb. 4 budget meeting.

Following discussion Jan. 16, it's on the "maybe" list, according to mayor Bob Carter.

Councillors asked staff to look into the idea and bring back a report to budget deliberations.

Chief building official, Eric Guay, said the township's bylaw department responded to 17 dog-related bylaw complaints in 2024, with 58 per cent of calls being for dogs running at large.

"We currently do not have a pound keeper agreement in place and staff are not trained at this time to capture and relocate animals to a pound," he said.

He added the closest locations of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) are in Bracebridge, Bancroft and Bobcaygeon, so not feasible for bylaw staff to capture dogs and take them out-of-town.

Guay said there were two interested parties, but Paws at Killara Station was the best fit. He estimated the cost of providing the new service at $10,000-a-year.

He said if council proceeded, Paws would receive, impound and hold dogs for claiming by the owners. Township staff would have after-hours access to the shelter along with shelter staff; the two would charge and collect pound, and other, fees; and there would be an annual report of the daily operations and numbers of impounded dogs received at the shelter.

The chief building official added dog owners or adopters would have to pay a pick-up fee for lost dogs collected by the owner within 24 hours; and $15 per day for food.

He noted bylaw staff would have to undergo canine apprehension and catchpole training, at $310-plus HST per officer.

To outfit one vehicle with a dog barrier is $219.90-plus HST; while a four-to-six-foot catchpole is $216 plus HST.

Deputy mayor Lisa Schell said Paws at Killara Station owner Sue Macdonald came to council several years ago offering the service and, "it's nice to see we're following through with something." She noted Algonquin Highlands is also using the local business as its pound.

She added council stopped dog licensing when it didn't have a pound, and wondered if it was time to reinstate tags. Guay said it would make a lot of sense, with possible lifetime licensing. Schell said if trained staff pick-up a dog with a tag, "it might be something as simple as making a phone call rather than having to transport out to Paws, but it's still beneficial to have them (a pound)."

Mayor Bob Carter asked what happens if dogs are not claimed. Guay said that would then become the responsibility of Paws. Coun. Ivan Ingram said the agreement indicated Paws would take on a dog after four days. Coun. Pam Sayne wondered if Paws also had a microchip reader.

Coun. Bob Sisson asked if the bottom line was $10,000-a-year in new charges and Guay said yes. Sisson said with just 17 dogs, and nine-at-large, it is a lot of money.

Coun. Tammy McKelvey said people can advertise lost dogs on Facebook, so she is not in favour of the township having pound services.

But Sayne said the community is changing and growing and pound services are needed. However, she would like the municipality to recoup more money from dog owners. "I think we need to progress with something like this, and I am in support of it."

Ingram wanted to put it on the "maybe" list. So, too, did Carter. Council deferred the item until next Tuesday.

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DESCRIPTION:

- The Self Support structure will sit within a chain-link fenced compound. The compound will contain a walk-in equipment cabinet housing radio equipment, tools, manuals and first aid kit.
- The site will provide fast and reliable wireless voice and data services in the Township of Minden Hills in the area of Mountain Lake, eliminating the need for additional infrastructure in the area.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION:

- With respect to this matter, the public is invited to provide written comments or request additional information by **March 3rd, 2025**, to the contact shown below. Please include a return address.

Spectra Point Inc. - Agent for Rogers
Saja Elshaikh
302 – 1090 Don Mills Road
Toronto, ON M3C 3R6
Phone: (647) 447-8548
Email: saja@spectrapoint.ca

LOCATION: Site located in a forested lot 1400 metres north and 370 metres east of the intersection of Bobcaygeon Road and Scotch Line Road.

ADDRESS: PART LOT 14-15 CONCESSION A MINDEN

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LA CONSULTATION PUBLIQUE :

En ce qui concerne cette question, le public est invité à fournir des commentaires écrits ou à demander des informations supplémentaires avant le 3 Mars 2025, au contact indiqué ci-dessous. Veuillez inclure une adresse de retour.

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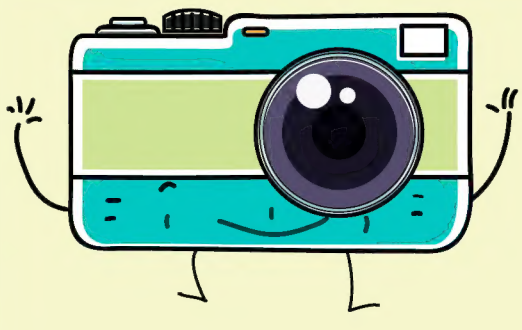

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Top left: Jim Baird holding a three-and-a-half-pound rainbow trout he caught on a Haliburton Forest lake. Top right: The campsite on Lake MacDonald where adventurer Baird spent three nights. Above: Baird and Yours Outdoors' Steve Lukacic tuck into some freshly caught fish. Above right: An aerial shot showing Baird and Lukacic traveling across a frozen lake on the 100,000-acre Haliburton Forest property. *Submitted*.

TV outdoorsman digs in at Haliburton Forest

By Mike Baker

Adventurer Jim Baird said the Haliburton Highlands stands up against any of the breathtaking landscapes he's seen traversing some of the country's most renowned natural havens – including the Canadian Arctic.

Familiar to fans of the National Geographic series *Home in the Wild* and the History Channel's reality series *Alone*, where he was the season four winner, Baird has forged a reputation as one of Canada's top outdoorsmen over the past decade.

A northern Ontario native, residing on the Magnetawan River north of Parry Sound, Baird has been a frequent visitor to Haliburton Forest recently – taking in annual trips to the 100,000-acre nature reserve. He spent three nights sleeping under the stars on MacDonald Lake, one of the property's northernmost water bodies, Jan. 13-15.

Baird said he was filming content for his YouTube channel 'Jim Baird-Adventurer', which boasts 193,000 subscribers.

"I do a lot of expeditionary-type trips in remote areas – I've done a lot of Arctic treks, distant parts of northern Ontario, and out in Alaska… but in terms of the myriads of beautiful lakes, opportunities for ice fishing and sledding, it's kind of hard to beat the Haliburton Forest," Baird told *The Highlander* last week.

He spent time traversing the property with Steve Lukacic, an ice fishing guide with Yours Outdoors who runs excursions at the Forest. Baird said the pair have been friends for years after connecting while both freelanced for *Outdoor Canada*, a monthly fishing and hunting magazine.

They visited numerous lakes, catching lake, brook and rainbow trout – the biggest about three-and-a-half-pounds, Baird said. The pair ate some of what they caught, frying the fish the old-fashioned way - skewered on some sticks over a hastily thrown together fire.

"They looked pretty gnarly, some people would have been questioning it, but the smoky flavour was just phenomenal," Baird said.

His first visit came in 2022. Wanting to get an up-close look at Canada's largest privately-owned nature reserve, he brought his wife and two children along for a relaxing family vacation. The reality was anything but, he recalls.

An ice rainstorm hit the morning of their arrival, making their foot journey to the off-grid cabin they'd rented particularly dicey. "The road was so slick you could have ice skated on it. Fortunately, we had cleats," Baird said.

They eventually made it to their destination and spent a few days exploring the property. "One of the best trips we've done… and we later learned we had almost the entire place to ourselves," Baird said, with the Forest cancelling all other reservations due to the weather.

The secluded spot he set up on MacDonald Lake is a new feature, with the Forest expanding its camping options last week. Baird was the first to try it out.

There are lots of other trips planned this year – remote ice fishing in Algoma District, a solo canoe trip in the Northwest Territories, and moose hunting in Newfoundland. Baird is also taking his brother, Ted, to the Grand Canyon and Hudson Bay.

As is becoming tradition, he'll return to Haliburton County next year.

"Most of the time when someone is looking to experience nature, to find top quality ice fishing they don't drive south – Haliburton is about two hours down for me, so that should give you an idea of how good that spot really is," Baird said.

A tartan good time

The annual Robbie Burns Day celebrations this year took place at The Haliburton Legion Jan. 25. Everyone's Scottish roots came out for good music, friendly people, and, of course, haggis. All were on-hand from young to old to enjoy celebrating the life and poetry of Robert Burns.

Top left: A view from the front of the room of the band playing. Top middle: The Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drum band march into the ballroom for the opening ceremonies. Top right: Dancing baby Sutton Stonehouse-Mansfield, and Ashley McAllister. Middle left: Traditional dances got everyone on their feet. Inset: The haggis. Middle right: The finale of a big dance. Above: The parade of the haggis. Right: A couple follow along with a traditional dance. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

Hitting the ice at Sandy Lane Resort

The outdoor rink at Sandy Lane Resort held its opening night Jan. 25. Friends and families got together to enjoy some outdoor ice skating, food from the outdoor grill, hot drinks by the fire, music, and a toboggan hill. After spending many hours working hard to get the rink up and going, owner Efjay Singh and his staff were keen to get the public on the fresh sheet of ice. They will be offering public skating Thursdays to Sundays from 2-6 p.m. and are offering private ice rentals and parties. The resort is at 17592 Hwy. 35, Algonquin Highlands.

Top left: Tyler Upton, in the hi-vis, does some check-ups on the rink as the kids play hockey. Top right: Karen Gardner enjoys an evening skate. Left: Slapshot coming in hot from a young hockey player. Above left: A couple skate along the snowy ice. Above right: Mother and daughter warm up by the fire. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

Will You Join the Board of the Minden Community Food Centre?

The Minden Community Food Centre, your local charity working to reduce food insecurity for those in need, is seeking a new volunteer to join our Board of Directors.

We are looking for a compassionate person with strong communication skills and a supportive team player to help us achieve our mandate to provide supplemental healthy foods for our clients living in Minden Hills.

We are looking for someone to assume the position of Recording Secretary. Relevant skills include attention to detail, organizational skills to manage records, the ability to take accurate notes at our monthly meetings, and familiarity with Microsoft Word.

If you have the skills, time, and experience, we would like to hear from you by February 15, 2025. Please contact us by e-mail and tell us about your interest in the position of Recording Secretary and your background, skill set, and experience.

Send your e-mail to mcfc.BoardMembers@gmail.com

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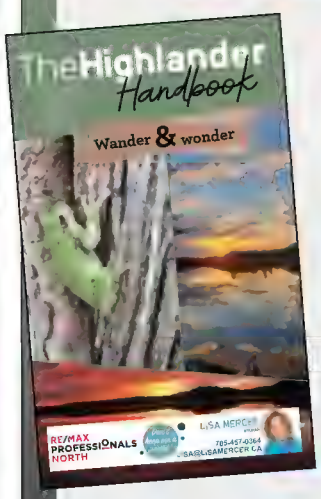

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Driving instructor likes view from office

By Lisa Gervais

From facing road rage, to white knuckle driving experiences, and a near-miss lightning strike in Glebe Park, Richard van Nood has seen it all in 35 years at the helm of Haliburton County's only driving school.

After leaving the military as a radio operator, van Nood was perusing the classifieds in an Oakville newspaper when he came across a job looking for someone who loved driving. "I've always loved driving," he says in a chat at Castle Antiques in downtown Haliburton. He applied and got the job with Young Drivers of Canada in Mississauga in 1983. He won instructor of the year twice at that office; became an in-class instructor in 1985 after logging 2,000 hours of car work; and taught other instructors.

He and wife, Shelley, moved to Haliburton in 1988. Shelley was born and raised in the Highlands.

At the time, the high school offered driver training that was subsidized by the Ontario government, so van Nood got into commercial printing for a spell. He then took on part-time work teaching in-class and in-car based out of Hal High in 1990. It was in 1996 that he opened The Driver's Edge Driver Training after the NDP government cancelled funding of driver education in the province.

Since then, he said he has no idea how many people he has taught to drive. When it is suggested "thousands" he said that could be right. He is now teaching the children of his first students, and former students have come up to tell them how many years they have been driving accident-free.

At the time of the interview, he had 37 students on the go; and was about to launch a new course to add another 20.

While many are 16 and 17-year-olds, he said he has some older students, including people who have moved to the Highlands from the city and now have to drive as there is no public transit.

"I meet people from all walks of life, 16-year-olds to 80-year-olds, male, female, new Canadians."

Despite the busyness of the full-time job, van Nood said he loves that he can pick his own hours, which was handy when he and Shelley's children were growing up.

"For the most part, I have enjoyed all of the students I have taught. Some are more challenging, as they may have no concept of driving and are back-and-forth on the road." He finds kids in Haliburton have better driving sense as they are exposed to motorized vehicles, such as four-wheelers, snowmachines, and even tractors, before getting behind the wheel of a car.

Richard van Nood has been teaching County drivers for 35 years. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Memorable moments

His most "white knuckle" experience was when a student driver in his Mercury Mystique was driving on Bobcaygeon Road and hit the ditch in winter; "next thing you know, a hydro pole was going past." After that, he added skid control to her lesson.

Another time, his student driver was turning in downtown Haliburton but was taking a bit long, forcing a driver behind to slow down. The other driver tailgated them to the high school, cutting in front and jamming on his brakes. After, van Nood followed the guy; to tell him it was not a great idea. Clearly it was a student driver and they could have panicked and hit the gas instead of the brake.

"He didn't give me a chance; up one side and down the other side of me, shouting 'you should be banned from teaching. I should report you to the police.' Van Nood walked away, knowing, "I'm not going to make headway with this gent."

> *I think it would drive me crazy being in an office looking at the same four walls all day long. I get to drive around. I'm everywhere.*
> ***Richard van Nood***

There was a fateful day after a driving lesson on the gravel road in Glebe Park. The skies opened up as van Nood was about to pick up pylons. He got back in the car just as a lighting strike hit the ground by the nearest cone. "You could smell the burning from the lightning strike. I made the right choice."

Early in his career, he also got the chance to teach a deaf student. But first, he had to learn some sign language for words such as turn and brake. Because the student was born deaf, van Nood said he had excellent observation skills. He got his license.

Changes

He has seen a lot of changes in the industry over the years. Probationary driver is now graduated licencing. There must be 10 hours of car work, up from eight. Government bodies have changed and the Ontario government sold driver testing rights to DriveTest.

He would like to see tougher testing standards, noting tests are just 17 minutes long; improved quality control for driving schools; and more parent involvement. He said parents tell him they are too nervous to drive with their teens, but seem content to let them drive on their own after 10 hours in a car. He added parents have to be driving role models. He allowed his kids to get behind the wheel of his car on their property. Mind you, his car had dual brakes. However, they would do a serpentine course around the trees.

He's asked if it's easier to learn driving in rural and regional areas, such as Haliburton County but says the intersection of Hwy. 118 and Highland Street in downtown Haliburton is a challenge, particularly in summer and Christmas holidays.

He's asked if kids are more distracted, and tells the story of seeing a driver in the GTA behind the wheel while reading a novel. "Distracted driving has always been there and is always going to be there."

As for car features that make it easier for students, he notes they can't use things like automatic reverse park when doing driving tests.

Looking back on his career, van Nood says, "It's not going to make me rich, but I enjoy it. I enjoy the freedom of being my own businessman. I like the fact I meet so many different people. I like the scenery from my office. I think it would drive me crazy being in an office looking at the same four walls all day long. I get to drive around. I'm everywhere."

Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 129 Haliburton - Poppy Trust Fund Branch Status Report January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

FUNDS IN	FUNDS IN	FUNDS OUT
Balance in Poppy Trust Fund - Jan. 1, 2024	$36,044.92	
Income from campaign & all other sources	$39,222.22	
Sub Total	**$75,267.14**	
Campaign expenses & youth expenses		$2,263.37
Donations/Grants from fund		$21,392.18
Total expenses & donations		**$23,655.55**
Closing Balance - Dec. 31, 2024	**$51,611.59**	

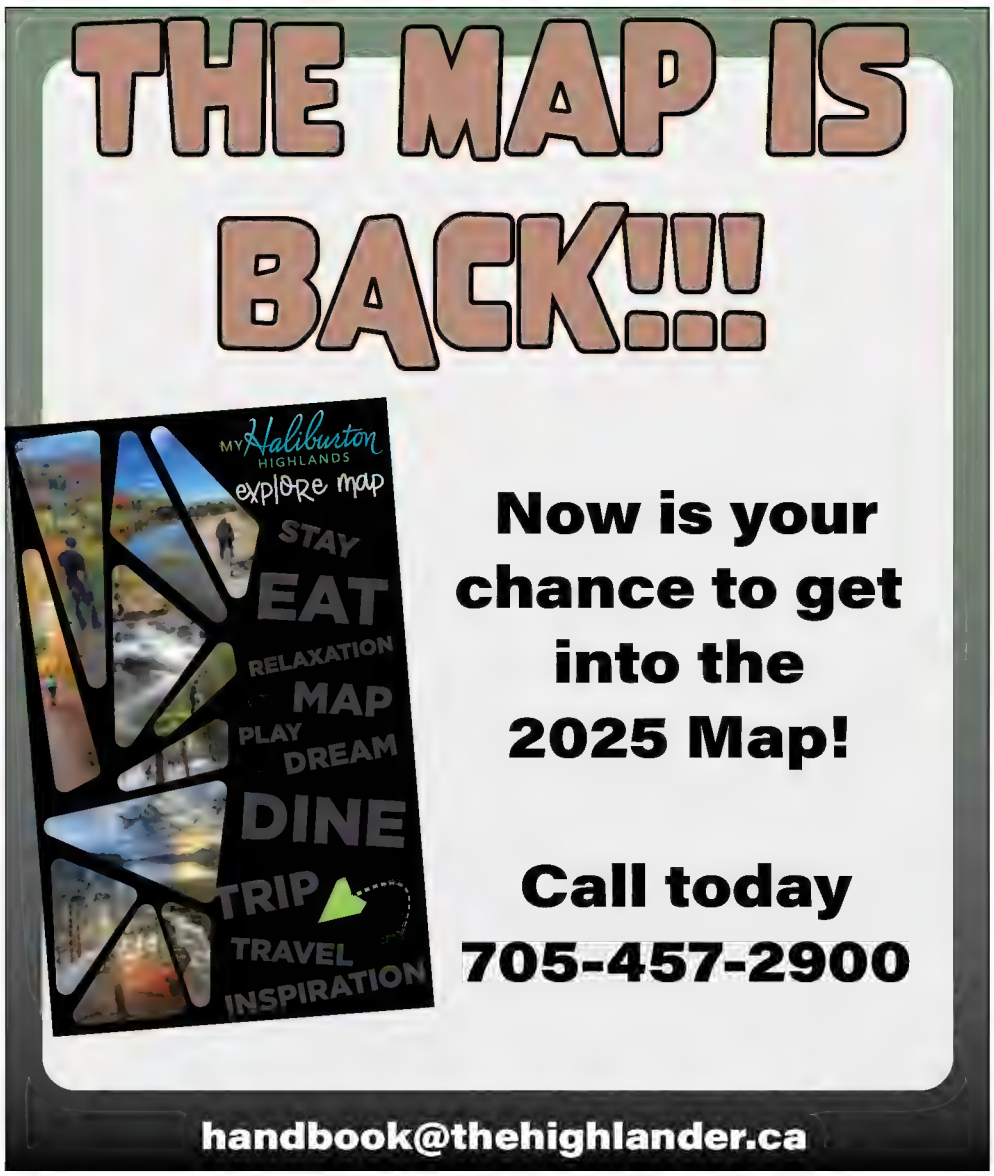
Thank you to everyone that volunteered with our campaign this year. The community stepped up and made this year's campaign a successful one. To everyone who worked behind-the-scenes, you were a tremendous help in lessening the workload. To all those willing to go out canvassing regardless of the weather, thank you. You are the face the public sees, and you represented our Legion with great integrity. Thank you to the over 100 businesses that allowed us to place our poppy boxes at their location. Thank you to the 11 businesses that permitted us to canvas out front. The last weekend was helped along by CanoeFM announcing our need for help. It is truly a humbling experience to see how much the community supported our veterans by helping to support our Poppy Campaign. Everyone should be proud of the way this community volunteered and showed their respect for those who fought for our freedom. We shall remember them.

Yours in Comradeship, Christina Briggs - Poppy Chair

Minden Rotary supports food centre

Minden Rotary is continuing to support the Minden Community Food Centre with a recent $10,000 donation. The proceeds were raised at the RotaryFest in downtown Minden. President Lynda Litwin said Minden Rotary was impressed with the tour of the facility, the number of families that are supported in the community, and the "wonderful" results of the Christmas Hamper Program. She thanked the centre's Jean Munroe, Gary Stoner and Jim Wilson.

Front row: Sharon Foster, Jeanne Anthon, Shirley Johannessen, Gary Stoner, Jean Munroe, Betty Mark, Dave Woodcroft, Jim Wilson. Back row: Sally Moore, John Kerr, Lynda Litwin, Andy Campbell, Scott Baker, Dennis Pennie, Lori Pennie. *Submitted.*



Legion gives from the heart

Royal Canadian Legion Haliburton president, Mike Waller, presents a $2,000 Legion cheque to SIRCH's recent Gifts from the Heart campaign. He is pictured with Shauna Schultz. *Submitted.*

Cold as ice but willing to sacrifice

The Jan. 25-26 weekend saw ice racers return to the Minden fairgrounds for the 2025 season. The first two days of the year went off without a hitch, save for a couple of inevitable spin-outs, and racers and spectators enjoyed the spectacle. The racers came from all over Ontario and were excited to hit the track, which was in pristine condition due to recent cold weather and snow. The races are organized by the Canadian Automobile Sports Clubs. They work with Minden Kinsmen volunteers, who each year transform the fairgrounds into a winding, frozen-over circuit that draws people from across North America. It's one of the few dry land locations in the country, and home to ice racing in Ontario. Weather permitting, the races will run for six weeks, concluding the March 1 weekend.

Top left: Car #68, driven by Oleh Koursa, drifts on the ice. Top right: The next heat is lined up and ready to go. Middle left: Dustin Brown, in car #167 hits the Minden fairgrounds ice track. Middle right: A fierce battle between Ian Johnson #119 and Craig Willis #37. Above: Car #91, driven by Brad Redford bumps up against the bank during a turn. Bottom right: A three-way fight to the finish line. Right: The English Plumber, Ian Last, leads the pack through the 'S'bend. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS

What's Happening in your county...

Jan. 31 Neil Young Legacy Band - hosted at Hollow Valley Resort

Feb. 1-2 Hike Haliburton - hosted throughout the Haliburton Highlands. Join our guided & themed snowshoe hikes, demonstration and events for all ages.

Feb. 8 Dorset Poker Run hosted by Tall Pines snowmobile club & the Dorset volunteer firefighters association.

Feb. 14 Trina West - Sweethearts Dinner - hosted at the Dominion Hotel

Feb. 14-15 Dorset snowball event - hosted in the village of Dorset.

Feb. 15 The Night Howlers live entertainment - hosted at Boshkung Smokehouse.

Feb. 22 Bill Black - Ski-Apres live entertainment - hosted at Sir Sam's Ski

Feb. 28 Winter Folk Camp - learn & experience - hosted by Haliburton County Folk Society

To see the full listings of events, visit

myhaliburtonhighlands.com/whats-happening

STARS of the WEEK

BRODY HARTWIG

Brody used his explosive speed and vision to demonstrate his strong playmaking ability. He was able to set up two goals and ended the night with two assists.

LUKE GRUPPE

Luke showed heart and determination throughout this hard-fought game. His hard work and hockey sense continue to show his dependability in all situations.

LEVI ROWE

Levi plays every game with 100 per cent effort, and skill. He is always aggressive, reliable, and does anything he can to help his team be successful. *Photos by Tim Tofflemire.*

SCORE BOARD

Jan. 21
- U11 LL CarQuest Minden vs Kawartha 5-3 W
- U13 REP Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Lindsay 3-2 W

Jan. 24
- U15 REP Haliburton Timbermart vs Kawartha 7-3 L
- U11 CarQuest Minden vs Lindsay 6-5 L
- U18 Tom Prentice & Sons vs Lindsay 2-1 W

Jan. 25
- U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs Brock 2-2 T
- U11 REP Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Durham 6-0 W
- U11 LL CarQuest Minden vs Millbrook 4-2 L
- U13 Blue Curry Chevrolet vs Millbrook 8-2 W
- U13 Yellow Casey Water Wells & Geothermal Inc. vs Manvers 10-1 W
- U18 Tom Prentice & Sons vs Kawartha 3-3 T

Jan. 26
- U13 Blue Curry Chevrolet vs Durham 5-0 L
- U9 LL Sharp Electric vs Millbrook 8-2 L
- U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs Sturgeon 3-2 W

U15 Rep battle Kawartha Coyotes

The Highland Storm U15 Rep Haliburton Timber Mart team faced off against the Kawartha Coyotes Jan. 24, in an intense matchup that ended with a 7-3 loss for the Storm.

Vanek Logan delivered a standout performance, scoring a hat-trick. Brody Hartwig and Zach Prentice contributed with key assists, with Hartwig earning two and Prentice adding one to the scoresheet.

Despite strong individual efforts, the team faced challenges, including penalty trouble that disrupted their rhythm and allowed the Coyotes to capitalize. The Storm fought hard throughout the game, showing determination, but ultimately couldn't overcome the Coyotes' offensive momentum.

With this game marking the second part of their season, the Highland Storm now find themselves among the top four teams. They will compete against the other three teams three times each in this phase. Once these games are completed, the standings will determine playoff matchups, with team one facing team four and team two squaring off against team three in a best-of-three series. The winners will then battle in another best-of-three series, with the ultimate victor moving on to the OMHA competition.

The team remains focused on their goals and is determined to regroup and come back stronger in the upcoming games. Their dedication and teamwork will be critical as they continue their journey toward OMHA qualification. Fans are encouraged to cheer them on and show support as they push forward in the playoffs. *(Submitted).*

The Storm's Levi Rowe heads up ice. Submitted.

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Huskies forward Tai York screens the goalie during Saturday's 4-1 win over the Pickering Panthers. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

Huskies back in top 20

By Mike Baker

It was another perfect week for the Haliburton County Huskies, racking up three more wins as the team continues to chase down the frontrunners atop the Ontario Junior Hockey League's (OJHL) East Division.

It was an impressive showcase of the team's depth, with 16 different players getting on the scoresheet in wins over the Aurora Tigers, Pickering Panthers, and North York Rangers. The results extend the Huskies winning streak to five games, while earning points in eight of the last nine.

The hometown club remains locked in third place in the division, six behind the Toronto Jr. Canadiens and seven ahead of the Wellington Dukes. The Trenton Golden Hawks, this week ranked as the nation's best Jr. A team, top the standings – 11 points ahead of the Huskies.

Following a two month absence, the blue and white broke back into the Canadian Junior Hockey League Top 20 on Jan. 27, ranking 19th.

Huskies 5-0 Aurora

It was a dominant performance on the road Jan. 24, with the Huskies outshooting the Aurora Tigers 55-15 through three periods of play.

Declan Bowmaster, enjoying his second stint with the team, broke the deadlock 8:06 into the opening period for his fifth goal of the season, assisted by Nathan Poole and Tai York. Sharpshooter Deandres De Jesus added a second six minutes later, his 24th of the year, after being set up by Daniel Vasic and Cameron Hankai.

Poole helped himself to his second point of the game late in the period, beating the buzzer at 19:47 – assisted by Nolan Ling and Luke Hampel – to give the Huskies an unassailable lead.

Offensive defenceman Hankai notched his 10th of the season with a lone second period tally, assisted by Kaiden Thatcher and Ryan Goose. York then completed the scoring 17:36 into the final frame, assisted by De Jesus and Bowmaster, who each had two points on the game.

Goaltender Stephen Toltl earned a 15-save shutout.

Huskies 4-1 Pickering

The home side picked up where it left off the previous night on Saturday (Jan. 25), routing the Pickering Panthers 4-1 at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

Despite dominating the shot clock in the first, firing 21 pucks on the Pickering net and giving up only six in return, the Huskies faced a hot netminder in Gavin Betts. Noah Lodoen was able to sneak one in at 6:39, assisted by Hankai, but the Panthers' Drew Mclennan tied things at 19:42.

Undeterred, the Huskies kept pushing and got their reward on the powerplay early in the second – Poole helping himself to his 21st goal of the season at 2:53. Alex Bradshaw and Ling were credited with assists.

Co-captain Ty Petrou made it a two-goal game at 11:45, giving the Huskies some breathing room. Assists on the play were given to Poole and blueliner Curtis Allen.

Kieran Litterick added some gloss to the scoreline in the third, striking for his third goal as a Husky at 17:34, assisted by Thatcher and Bradshaw.

Goaltender Tyler Hodges was named the game's third star after making 24 saves in the win.

Huskies 5-2 North York

Braving the elements for a trip to the GTA Jan. 28, the Huskies earned two more points in a 5-2 win over the division's last-place team the North York Rangers.

A run of four straight goals through the opening two periods, beginning with Litterick three-quarters of the way through the first and continuing with Gosse, Thatcher and Ling in the second, seemed to put this game to bed early. De Jesus had two assists, with lone apples going to Bowmaster, Chase Del Colombo, Hankai, Gosse, and Hampel.

Alexey Kulikov gave the few homes fans in attendance something to cheer about 8:40 into the third, breaking Toltl's attempt at a second successive shutout. Vasic replied with the Huskies fifth goal at 9:33, assisted by Petrou and Poole, before a late marker by Andrew Artenosi finished the scoring.

The Huskies are back in action tonight, Jan. 30, at home against the King Rebellion. Puck drop is 7 p.m. The team will also host the Cobourg Cougars Feb. 1, with a 4 p.m. puck drop, before a pivotal match-up with the Wellington Dukes on the road Feb. 4.

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Hike Haliburton winter edition blows in

By Mike Baker

Hike Haliburton winter edition returns for a fourth year this coming weekend, with 15 guided hikes organized to "highlight the beauty of the Highlands," according to County tourism manager Angelica Ingram.

Running Feb. 1 and 2, the event typically attracts more than 100 participants. Launched in 2020, the winter version of the popular fall festival – which began in the 2000s – is designed to give people the opportunity to explore some of the County's most prominent trails and nature reserves at a time when most prefer to be cooped up indoors.

"The event encourages participants to get outside and enjoy the outdoors, through walking, hiking, or snowshoeing," Ingram said. "All guided hikes are free and are led by hike leaders with a wealth of knowledge about the geography, environment and history of the Haliburton Highlands.

"One of the main priorities of Hike Haliburton is to provide educational experiences for all ages and abilities," she added.

There are 11 features on Saturday and four on Sunday, with 135 spots out of a possible 184 filled. Ingram confirmed seven hikes are full.

Hikers will have the chance to traverse the Queen Elizabeth Wildlands via the Ganaraska Hiking Trail, explore the Barnum Creek Nature Reserve, check out 'Icicle Alley' at The Frost Centre, and learn about 60 years of memories and traditions at Eagle Lake while climbing Sir Sam's ski hill.

There are ice climbing experiences at Haliburton Forest, an educational opportunity for identifying and tracking animals offered through the Forest's wolf centre, an historical tour of the old Cox Farm property, exploration of Bethel Heights Farm, and a 'Back Forty' snowshoe stomp led by Pat and Barrie Martin – one of the founding members of the fall edition.

New this year, Ingram said, is an Altai ski demo at Glebe Park Feb. 1 in partnership with Algonquin Outfitters, led by Dave Paddock and Thom Lambert.

She said both versions of Hike Haliburton promote tourism to the Highlands at all times of the year. A report published by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport following the 2023 events showed an economic benefit to the region of approximately $150,000. The report stated visitors spent $248,881 while attending.

This year, the County is investing $17,000 into running and promoting the events.

"We want the event to draw people to the area, and by saving money on attending the festival, they are likely to stay in local accommodations and support our businesses," Ingram said.

To register, visit winter.hikehaliburton.com.

People enjoy a walk during a Hike Haliburton winter edition event last year. *File*.

Drag Lake reno to be featured on Paramount+

By Lisa Gervais

Honourary Highlanders, Colin McAllister and Justin Ryan, will be sharing the story of a winter renovation they did on Drag Lake when Paramount+ debuts *Colin & Justin's Sub-Zero Reno* starting Jan. 31.

According to Farpoint Films, the series showcases "the relentless pursuit of perfection as the designers face numerous obstacles, including blizzards, dangerous roads, and a rapidly ticking clock.

"From fraught deliveries and icy conditions to the custom designs required for the new space, every step of the renovation is pressure-filled. But the two are no stranger to adversity and are determined to overcome delays, unpredictable weather and their own demanding personalities."

Known for *Hotel Hell, Cabin Pressure, Great Canadian Cottages, Reno Rumble* (Australia) and their *Globe and Mail* book Escapology, the new series follows the couple as they embark on renovating their dream home in Haliburton during winter; a first for the veteran designers.

It is a six-part series following their purchase of a dilapidated cabin.

McAllister and Ryan said, "the challenge nearly destroyed us physically, emotionally, and financially. As temperatures plummeted, it seemed like everything that could have gone wrong did go wrong, but we had a dream of turning this cottage into the home of our dreams."

Vanessa Case, vice president of content at Paramount+ and Pluto TV Canada added, "we are excited to bring beloved design duo and honourary Canadians Colin and Justin to Paramount+.

"Renowned for their incredible renovation work and eccentric personalities, this series takes their talents to a new extreme, set against one of Canada's most beautiful wilderness backdrops."

Colin McAllister and Justin Ryan are being featured in a new renovation show. *Submitted*.

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EVENTS

Jan. 31, 6 to 11 p.m.
The Haliburton Legion is hosting a New Year fundraiser, with all proceeds going to its lift project. Live music by Adverse Conditions, dinner is chili and a roll with a dessert. Tickets are $30 available in the Legion clubroom (705-457-2571), or by contacting one of the band members.

Feb. 1, 9 a.m.
The Minden Ice races return, as Ontario Ice Racing action is back at the Minden Fairgrounds. Experience adrenaline-packed racing on a frozen track. Spectator admission is free. All day. Sunday start time is 11 a.m. Running every weekend until March 1/2.

Feb. 1 and 2
Hike Haliburton Winter Edition. Join guided and themed snowshoe hikes, demonstrations and events for all ages, interests and abilities. Bring your family and friends for two days of adventure and fun. All guided hikes are free of charge. Register at winter.hikehaliburton.com.

Feb. 4, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Haliburton Highlands Health Services is hosting a virtual community engagement session, featuring updates from president and CEO Veronica Nelson, and presentations from Bram Lebo, Penny Stayropoulos, Beth Archibald, Lauren Ernst, and Amanda Rowden. Register at hhhs.ca.

Feb. 4, 7 and 8,
Celebrate Valentine's Day with a fun and creative craft activity - needle felting mini hearts! This adult workshop will happen on Feb 4 at 4:30 p.m. at the Stanhope Library, Feb 7 at 11 a.m. at the Wilberforce Library and Feb 8 at 2 p.m. at the Minden Library.

Feb. 8, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
The Dorset Poker Run, hosted by the Lions Camp Dorset. More than 300 riders hit the trails to complete checkpoints and return back to camp to draw their poker hands, eat and enjoy fellow rider camaraderie. Grand prize is $1,500. To participate, call 705-766-2780, or email lionscampdorset@gmail.com.

Feb. 8, 8 a.m.
The 33rd annual Snowmobile Poker Run in support of the Haliburton Firefighters Association. First prize for best poker hand is a new snowmobile. Taking place at Haliburton Forest. For more information call 1-800-631-2198, or email reservations@haliburtonforest.com.

Feb. 8, 11 a.m.
Unlock your potential and set your intentions for the year ahead by participating in a 'create your own vision board' workshop at the Dysart library. Registration required. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca or call 705-457-2241 to register. This workshop is designed for adults.

Feb. 8, 1 to 3 p.m.
Celebrate Black History Month with a special screening of *Black Panther*! Screenings will start at 1pm at both the Minden and Dysart Library. No registration required. All families welcomed. Movie is rated PG.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised?
Email mike@thehighlander.ca.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton weekly activities
Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m in the clubroom. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo hopefully returning in March.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m. tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Coboconk
Second Monday of the month: General meeting - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m.
First Wednesday of the month: Big Buck Bid Euchre from 11 a.m. $15 per person.
Saturdays: Meat Roll at 3 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce
Mon: 7 to 10 p.m.
Wed: 2 to 6 p.m.
Thurs: 2 to 10 p.m.
Fri: 2 to 11 p.m.
Sat: 2 to 9 p.m.
Sun: Special events only

Cornhole on Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. Cost is $5 per player.

Wings and jam session Jan. 31 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per pound.

Meat draw Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22 at 3 p.m.

Cornhole at 7 p.m. Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27. Cost is $5 per player.

Fish n' Chips Fridays Feb. 7 and 21, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per person.

LA Breakfast Feb. 9, from 9 to 11 a.m. Cost is $10.

Super Bowl party Feb. 9, at 4 p.m. Kick-off is 6:30 p.m. Party snacks will be available. There is a $5 cover charge.

Valentine's Day Dinner Feb. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. - enjoy some chicken marsala with salad, mashed potatoes, veggies and dessert. Cost is $20 per person.

Seniors 55+ lunch Feb. 14, 28, at noon. Cost is $17 per person.

Valentine's Day Dance Feb. 15, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Food is provided.

Ken McFarlane Ice Fishing Derby Feb. 22. Weigh in is at 6 p.m. Registration is $20.

Wings and jam session Feb. 28, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per pound.

Call for legion at 705-448-2221 for more information.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden
Monday - Thursday: Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541

Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m. Rug Hookers every second week.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

MINDEN HILLS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received an application to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey a parcel of land, being a shoreline road allowance, and more particularly described as follows:

1. File No. PLSRA2024031: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Soyers Lake, lying in front of 1056 Renown Drive, located within Part Lot 28, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Minden.

2. File No. PLSRA2024037: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake, lying in front of 1257 Canuck Trail, located within Part Lot 10, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth.

The above noted application is available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than February 22, 2025.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than February 22, 2025.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
Manager of Planning
Township of Minden Hills
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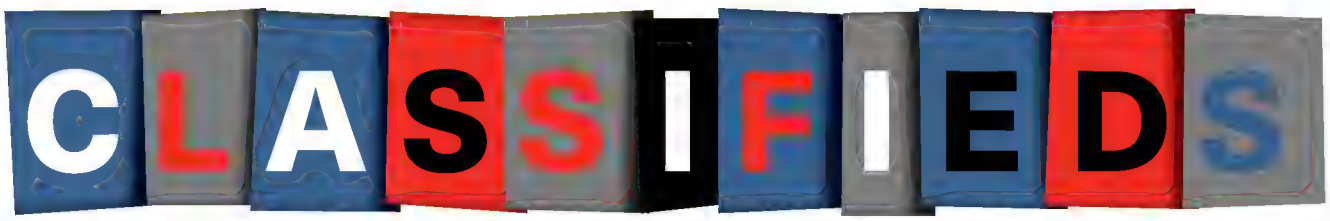

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Joyce Bartley (nee Stewart)

Joyce Elaine Bartley (née Stewart) was called home by the Lord in her 86th year on January 20th, 2025. Joyce was the devoted wife of Gerald Bartley, the cherished daughter of Stan and Jean (née Gostlin) Stewart, proud older sister of John (all predeceased), and is survived by her much-loved sister-in-law Mary Ann.

Joyce's children—Brian (Miriam), Lorie (Robert), Linda (Al), and Brenda (Garry)—will forever miss her profoundly beautiful personality and heart. She was also a proud and devoted grandmother to Nichole (Timur), Devin (Ange), Jay (Meghan), Alysia (Marc), Carolyn (Michael), Johanna (Conrad), Benjamin (Brooke), Erin (Joshua), Elizabeth (Howard), Jacob, Katrina, Rachel (David), Chelsey (Andrew), and Ashley. Joyce was blessed with 29 great-grandchildren. Joyce's nieces and nephews, cousins, and many friends held a very special place in her heart.

Joyce's life was centered around her family, friends, church, community, and her deep faith in God. She touched the lives of all who knew her with her boundless love, kindness, joy, and hospitality. May she rest in eternal peace with the Lord.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends and family are invited to call Friday evening January 24th, 2025 at the **COBOCONK COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 6644 Hwy#35 Coboconk, Ontario K0M 1K0 for a Visitation from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. A service will follow the next day at **HOPE UNITED CHURCH** 7521 Hwy#35 Norland, Ontario K0M 2L0 Saturday afternoon January 25th, 2025 at 2:00 (Visitation one hour prior.) As an expression of sympathy, donations in Joyce's honour can be made to the Hope United Church as it was near and dear to her heart.

Haliburton Community Funeral Home
www.communityfuneralhomes.com

In Loving Memory of

Eileen Somerville (nee Winters)

Peacefully at Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Monday morning, January 20, 2025, in her 79th year. Beloved wife of the late Casey Somerville, with whom she shared over 42 wonderful years of marriage. Loving mother of Patty, Dolly (Doug), Shirley (Neal), and Molly (Rod). Eileen was a devoted grandmother to seven cherished grandchildren and a proud great-grandmother to eleven great-grandchildren, who brought her immense joy. She is predeceased by her parents George Winters and Cecile Patenaude, her sister Leoma, and by her granddaughter Tabitha.

Eileen has always been a vibrant and outgoing social butterfly, eager to bring a smile to everyone she meets. Her warmth and humor light up any room, and her kindness knows no bounds. She's the kind of person who would give you the shirt off her back without a second thought. Her hands were rarely still—always busy knitting tea towels or toques, which she gifted freely to everyone, whether they wanted one or not.

Eileen will be deeply missed by her family and all who knew her. Her kindness, warmth, and unwavering love leave a legacy of cherished memories.

A Graveside Service

A Graveside Service at Essonville Cemetery will be held in the Spring. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Canadian Lung Association would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

Haliburton Community Funeral Home
www.communityfuneralhomes.com

In loving memory of

Joseph Zahn

August 31st, 1942 - January 25th, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Joseph "Joe" Zahn, who left this world surrounded by his loved ones on January 25th, 2025 at the age of 82.

Joe was a one of a kind husband to his wife Christine "Chris" Zahn, Father to Peter Zahn and Michael Zahn, Grandfather to Heather Hickling, Bradley LeBlanc and Ashley Zahn, Great Grandfather to Theodore LeBlanc and Yvonne Hickling and a dear friend to so many.

Joe always knew how to make a room fill with laughter and joy. He loved like no other and always took pride in taking care of those around him. Joe was a family man, and he lived for the moments where we all came together. He shared his love for travel with his wife, adventuring to many different parts of the world all throughout their time together. Many memories were made while doing his favourite things, being outside, listening to music, indulging in theatre, and of course watching sports. His drive to work and provide for the ones he loved was one like no other.

A celebration of life will be held on February 8th from 1-3 at The Curling Club in Haliburton. Family and Friends are invited to come together and celebrate the life Joe led, the memories he shared and the laughter he brought. As an expression of sympathy, we invite you to make a donation to the Halliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation.

SERVICES

SKILLED HANDYMAN - Available for renovations, trim, tile, bathroom, deck, basement, flooring and paint. Please call or text Bob at 705-457-6190

HANDYMAN - Carpentry, General Repairs. Call or Text Doug at 416-889-8534

WANTED

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

FOR RENT

SELF-CONTAINED STORAGE UNITS for rent - Industrial Park Road, various sizes, Call (705) 457-1224

HALL FOR RENT - Bright clean, newly renovated hall for rent. Seats 80. Suitable for meetings, life celebrations, training, seminars etc. Contact the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association at halihhoa@gmail.com or call 705-457-9664 at 6712 Gelert Road, Haliburton.

LOOKING TO RENT

LOOKING TO RENT - 1 bedroom apartment immediately for a 63 year old lady, no stairs. Please call Christine at 705-457-3795

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1 R	2 E	3 D	4 W	5 I	6 N	7 G	■	8 S	9 I	10 A	■	11 U	12 S	13 E
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17 S	L	A	C	K	T	I	18 V	I	S	M	■	19 H	A	G
20 O	I	R	■	21 S	I	M	I	L	E	■	22 P	E	N	■
23 D	O	M	24 I	■	■	25 M	E	T	A	26 V	E	R	S	27 E
28 S	T	E	N	29 T	30 S	■	■	■	31 M	O	L	S	O	N
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40 S	U	N	N	I	■	41 R	E	L	I	E	S	■	■	■
42 E	E	L	I	N	43 G	■	■	■	44 E	X	E	45 T	46 E	47 R
48 Z	E	I	T	G	E	49 I	50 S	51 T	■	■	52 S	A	N	E
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58 W	E	T	■	59 Z	O	O	M	F	A	T	60 I	G	U	E
61 A	Y	E	■	62 S	U	N	■	63 F	A	T	B	E	R	G
64 R	E	D	■	65 A	T	S	■	66 S	T	A	N	D	E	E

SOLUTIONS FOR JANUARY 23

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14 O	L	D	N	A	V	Y	■	15 A	M	A	16 T	E	U	R
17 T	I	T	A	N	I	C	■	18 G	E	O	R	G	I	A
■	■	■	19 T	A	L	K	20 I	N	G	H	E	A	D	S
21 K	22 A	23 Y	O	■	■	■	24 C	A	A	■	25 B	L	E	H
26 O	N	E	O	27 R	28 T	29 W	O	■	■	30 S	E	E	D	Y
31 B	A	T	T	E	R	O	N	32 D	33 E	C	K	■	■	■
34 O	P	I	■	35 A	O	K	■	36 C	R	U	■	37 L	38 G	39 A
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43 D	44 O	45 W	A	H	■	■	46 U	N	S	E	A	L	E	D
47 A	H	E	N	■	48 A	49 T	E	■	■	■	50 V	A	N	S
51 D	E	N	T	52 A	L	B	R	53 I	54 D	55 G	E	■	■	■
56 O	N	T	A	R	I	O	■	57 L	O	A	F	58 E	59 R	60 S
61 E	R	O	S	I	O	N	■	62 S	U	T	U	R	E	S
63 S	Y	N	■	64 P	N	E	■	65 A	G	O	N	I	Z	E

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6	2	3	8	7	4	5	9	1
9	4	8	5	3	1	2	6	7
5	7	1	2	9	6	8	4	3

HELP WANTED

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) currently has an exciting opportunity for an energetic and experienced individual to join the team!

MAINTENANCE ATTENDANT
COMPENSATION: $25.78/hr - $27.93/hr
(Part-time Permanent)

This Position is responsible for the preventative maintenance routines, routine inspections of key operating systems (Fire System, Diesel Fire Pump, Back Up Generator, etc.), and repairing and maintaining equipment, buildings, and a safe, healthy and reliable environment. To achieve this, the Maintenance Attendant routinely inspects and diagnoses problems, determines and coordinates solutions, frequently checks drawings, repair manuals, parts catalogs and Suppliers, and predictively replaces or fixes worn or broken parts, where necessary, or makes adjustments to correct malfunctioning equipment.

If you are interested in joining the HHHS team for the above position, please visit www.hhhs.ca/about/careers for more details.

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HELP WANTED

Administrative Assistant
Full-Time • Haliburton

Hudson Henderson Insurance Brokers is a forward-thinking insurance firm committed to providing unparalleled service and innovative solutions to our clients. We are looking for a motivated and detail-oriented individual to join our team.

Key Responsibilities
- Assist licensed insurance brokers in preparing quotes and policy proposals for clients.
- Perform administrative tasks such as data entry, filing, and maintaining client records.
- Provide exceptional customer service by addressing client inquiries and processing policy changes.
- Collaborate with the sales team to identify new business opportunities and follow up on leads.
- Support the processing of insurance applications and claims.
- Stay up-to-date with industry trends and changes in insurance regulations.

Qualifications:
- High school diploma or equivalent; additional education or certifications in insurance or a related field is a plus.
- Strong organizational and multitasking skills.
- Excellent communication and customer service skills.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Outlook).
- Attention to detail and the ability to work independently.
- Prior experience in the insurance industry or a related field is preferred but not required.

Benefits:
- Competitive salary • Benefit options
- Paid time off and holidays.
- Opportunities for professional development and career advancement.

How to Apply:

Please submit your resume and a cover letter outlining your qualifications and interest in the position to info@hudsonhenderson.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires a
Truck Driver/Equipment Operator

Truck Driver/Equipment Operators are responsible for the safe operation of heavy equipment such as a trucks, backhoes, loaders, and wing plows. This position is responsible for maintaining roads, ditching, excavating culverts, and brushing.

Successful applicants will possess an DZ/AZ licence and have experience operating heavy equipment. This position requires an ability to work on-call hours and respond to short notice call ins, as well as good judgment and communication skills. The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is $29.17. This position includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and employer paid extended health benefits.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than February 14, 2025, at 4:30pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

Township of Algonquin Highlands
Parks, Recreation and Trails Department

We are currently accepting resumes for the following seasonal positions:

Dorset Tower Attendant
Seasonal Trails Office Attendant
Seasonal Student Trail Technician
Stewardship Youth Ranger Team Lead
Stewardship Youth Ranger
Lead Swim Instructor
Assistant Swim Instructor

For the complete details, please visit our website at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Please submit your resume and cover letter by **3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 14, 2025** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay,
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

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FOR SALE - Rainbows for Stocking 8" fish available April 1st, contact halihhoa@gmail.com Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association, 6712 Gelert Rd, Haliburton

FOR SALE – Pure, unpasteurized honey. Clover, Golden, Liquid & creamed. Pure honey helps with allergies. Call Tom for details at 705-286-3628 2801 Blair Hampton Road

EVENT

CALL TO ENTER - The Tour de Forest Summer Art Tour is looking for a variety of participants in both Studio Artists & Guest Artists. Please download the application from Haliburtontourdeforest.com. Deadline is February 16, 2025, for more information contact Laurie at 705-754-0444 or at tdefjurying@gmail.com

NOTICES

AL ANON - WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: **Thursdays** 7 pm, St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and **Mondays** 7 pm at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every **Thursday** from 7:30-8:30 pm in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

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Trendy Terms

by Barbara Olson
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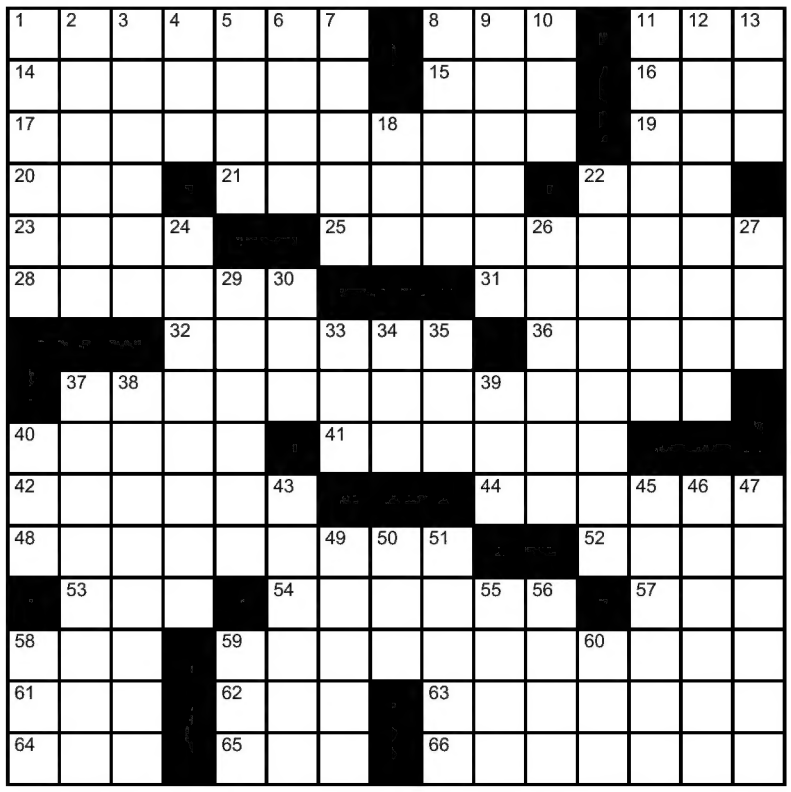

Across

1 Detroit hockey pro
8 Wig-wearing "Chandelier" singer
11 Function
14 Rigby in a Beatles song
15 Blasting need, for short
16 Ikea founder's ctry.
17 Supporting a movement from the comfort of one's couch
19 Witchy woman
20 To hear, to Hernando
21 As sharp as a tack, for example
22 Quill, for Shakespeare
23 Onetime NHL enforcer Tie ___
25 3D virtual reality world
28 Artery inserts
31 "I Am Canadian" beer sloganeer
32 Utter debacle
36 Motorhome camping
37 Doing no more than the basic job requirements
40 Division of Islam
41 Counts (on)
42 Catching certain sushi fish
44 Ontario town nicknamed "Home of the White Squirrel"
48 General feeling of the times
52 All there, so to speak
53 Typist's wrist malady, e.g.: Abbr.
54 Three-horse Russian wagon
57 Channel with "Tic Tac Dough" reruns
58 "The ___ Coast" (B.C., jokingly)
59 Screen meeting overload
61 Yeoman's "yes"
62 Rooster's wakeup sign
63 Congealed sewer stopper
64 Roy, in a colour mnemonic
65 2 toppers on keyboards
66 Loop holder on a bus

Down

1 Lays down the lawn again
2 Actor Page, once known as June Page
3 "Oh, heavens!"
4 WWII servicewoman
5 Calligrapher's supply
6 Words said to the Little Red Hen
7 Jakob or Wilhelm of fairy tales
8 Basketball's Wilt the ___
9 Line of jeans?
10 Bank entranceway fixture
11 Welcomes, as a new era
12 Performer's final act
13 It makes medical head lines?
18 Try to win, with "for"
22 Skeletal swivellers
24 Nissan make suggesting eternity
26 Tornado spiral
27 Universal language: Abbr.
29 Getting even, in a way
30 Settled on a settee
33 Crossword letter holder: Abbr.
34 Some pool sharks bring their own
35 ___ patch (Alberta job hub)
37 "Fab Five makeover series
38 Not in the phone book
39 Item ditched on Casual Day, maybe
40 "___ who?!"
43 Command said while pointing to the door
45 Identified on Instagram
46 Make certain (that)
47 Not do as promised
49 Items for the press?
50 Mogadishu's land: Abbr.
51 Lovers' quarrels
55 Pitcher Jim with a feline-sounding name
56 "___ girl!"
58 "Of course you realize, this means ___" (Bugs Bunny line)
59 Half of a Gabor name
60 "Son of," to a Saudi

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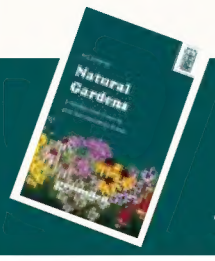

For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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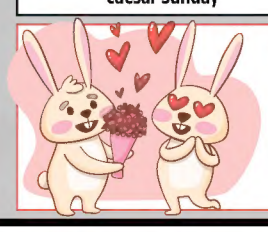
Caesar Sunday

Heart & Soul
February 9 • 3-6 p.m.
Caesar Sunday



Valentine's Sweetheart's Dinner with Trina West
February 14
2 seatings: 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Reservations Recommended

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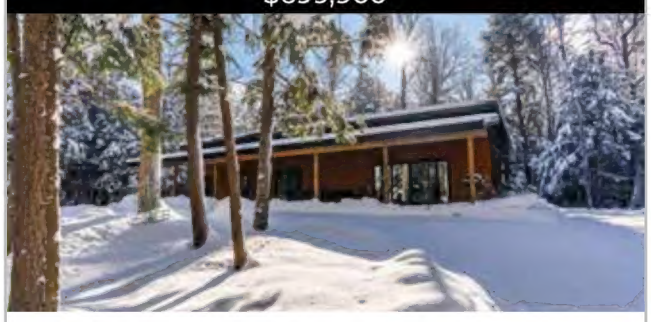
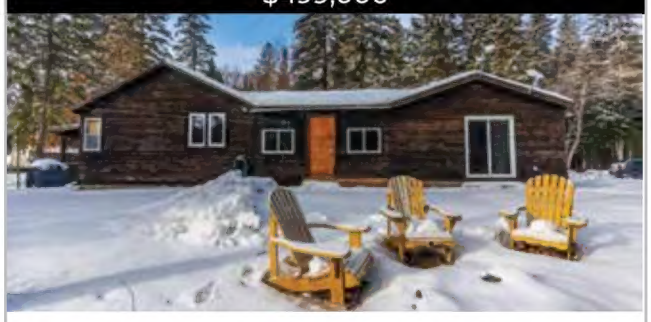


2X BED | 1X BATH | MLS X11823234

BLACK RIVER/DRAG LAKE
$499,000



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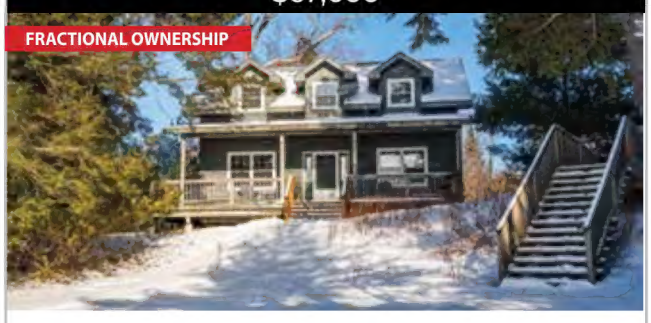
HIGHLAND GROVE
$474,900

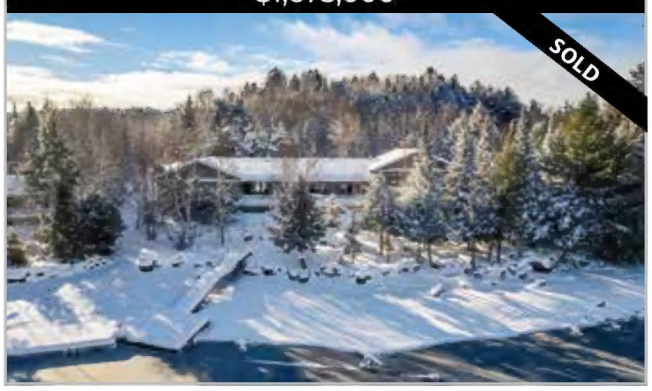
3X BED | 1X BATH | MLS X10437756

CHANDLER POINT
$67,000



MLS X11884689

LITTLE REDSTONE LAKE
$1,675,000



HALIBURTON LAKE
$1,250,000

EAGLE LAKE
$925,000

HALIBURTON LAKE
$799,000

KENNISIS LAKE
$750,000

VACANT LAND FOR SALE

Haliburton Lake Road
MLS X10437518
$250,000
14.53 Acres

Bethel Road
MLS X10899794
$191,000
24.65 Acres

Basshaunt Lake Road
MLS X10437016
$109,000
2.19 Acres

Wenona Lake Road
MLS X10899857
$109,000
0.42 Acres

SOLD Ross Lake Road
MLS X11899959
$68,800
2.3 Acres

FEATURED LISTING

MLS X10437518

PT II 12
Haliburton Lake Rd
$250,000
Fort Irwin
2293 feet of frontage
14.53 Acres

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner
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www.baumgartnerrealty.ca

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